



REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING A FALCONRY LICENSE

If you are applying for your first falconry license, you will be required to take and pass a supervised written examination. This examination is designed to test your knowledge of the California laws pertaining to falconry, your competency in caring for raptors, and your knowledge of the life history of birds of prey. You must be at least 12 years of age or older to be issued an Apprentice Falconry License. As an Apprentice, you may possess only a red-tailed hawk or an American kestrel.

You must pass the examination before a license may be issued. Pursuant to Section 670(e)(3), Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), any applicant who fails to pass the examination, may retake it no earlier than the next business day following the day of the failed examination.

To become qualified for a *falconry* license:

1. **STUDY STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO FALCONRY**

The enclosed laws pertaining to falconry are found in California Fish and Game Code Sections 395 and 396, and Section 670, Title 14, of the CCR. The Falconry License Laws and Regulations (FG 360e) is available online at www.wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/specialpermits.

2. **BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE CARE OF RAPTORS AND THE ART OF FALCONRY**

References are available on the web, at your library or book store, which will acquaint you with caring for a raptor, as well as how to go about training it for falconry. Particular attention should be directed to the diseases and the sanitary problems you will face in keeping a bird in captivity.

3. **BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE NATURAL HISTORY OF RAPTORS**

It is important to know as much as possible concerning identification of raptors and their habits. Much can be learned from reading, but nothing replaces many hours in the field observing birds in the wild. If you are unable to locate literature about falconry on the web, at your local library or book store, you may be able to locate vendors by accessing the California Hawking Club's website at calhawkingclub.org.

For more information on obtaining a sponsor, contact the California Hawking Club:

Northern California (North of Fresno)

Bridget Maguire-Colton
Chairperson of the Apprenticeship Program
Email: bridgetfalcon@yahoo.com

Southern California (South of Fresno)

Rick Lewis
Chairperson of the Apprenticeship Program
Email: akfalcosparverius@gmail.com

4. **FALCONRY EXAMINATION**

When you are ready to take the falconry examination, notify the nearest Department of Fish and Wildlife office listed on the back of this notice and ask for an appointment to take the examination. Take the completed New Falconry License Application (FG 360b), which is available online at wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Falconry, along with the examination fee, to a Department of Fish and Wildlife office and present them to the examination administrator on the day of your examination. You will be required to provide photo identification at the time of the examination. The examination will be supervised and is closed book. It covers information relating to sections 1, 2, and 3 listed above. Please allow a maximum of two hours to take the examination. The test will be corrected at the time of the examination and you will be given the test results.

5. **INSPECTION OF RAPTOR FACILITIES AND FALCONRY EQUIPMENT**

Once you pass your falconry examination, you must submit the New Falconry License Application, along with the license fee, application fee and inspection fee, to the address listed on the application. A Department employee will contact you to schedule an inspection of your raptor facility and falconry equipment. A Department employee must inspect and approve your raptor housing facilities before a falconry license can be issued. **Please allow 45 business days to process the application.**

6. ISSUANCE OF THE FALCONRY LICENSE

Once your facilities have been inspected and the License and Revenue Branch has reviewed your completed New Falconry License Application, the application and information will be sent to the Department's Wildlife Branch in Sacramento, California for final approval. If approved, the License and Revenue Branch will issue and forward your falconry license to you.

7. FACILITIES TO HOUSE YOUR RAPTOR

Proper housing is one of the most essential ingredients of successful falconry. (Section 670(j), Title 14, of the CCR) Mews (hawk houses) vary in size and construction. For more information regarding raptor housing specifications and other facility standards, refer to Part 21.29 and 21.30, Title 50, of the Federal Code of Regulations (CFR) available online at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/mbpermits/regulations/part21.pdf>

8. REPORTING CAPTURE OF RAPTORS FROM THE WILD

A Migratory Bird Acquisition and Disposition Report Form 3-186A (located at fws.gov/forms/3-186A.pdf) and Resident Falconer Raptor Capture, Recapture and Release Report (FG 360f) at wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Falconry, must both be completed and submitted within 10 calendar days of capture of a raptor from the wild.

9. GENERAL LICENSE INFORMATION

Falconry licenses are valid from July 1 through the following June 30. Regardless of when you obtain your falconry license during the year, you **MUST** renew your falconry license on or before the following July 1 if you possess a raptor or want to keep your falconry license active. The falconry license must be in your possession when taking your bird off of your property. You must exhibit all licenses upon the request of any officer. If you are hunting with your bird, you will also be required to possess a valid California hunting license and appropriate tags, if required. Prior to obtaining your first hunting license, you will be required to take the hunter education course. Information about hunter education is available at wildlife.ca.gov/Hunter-Education.

10. ADVANCEMENT FROM APPRENTICE CLASS

You must be licensed as an Apprentice falconer with a sponsor, for at least two years, and be at least 16 years of age. An Apprentice falconer shall submit a completed Apprentice Falconer's Annual Progress Report, as specified in Section 703, to the address listed on the report. The report shall demonstrate that the Apprentice falconer has practiced falconry with a raptor at the Apprentice level, including maintaining, training, flying, and hunting with the raptor for at least four months in each regulatory year, and a summary of the species the Apprentice possessed, how long each was possessed, how often each was flown, and methods of capture and release, before being upgraded from Apprentice class to General class.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE OFFICES

FRESNO — 1234 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710, (559) 243-4005 Ext. 151

LOS ALAMITOS — 4665 Lampson Avenue, Suite C, Los Alamitos, CA 90720, (562) 596-3885

MONTEREY — 21 Lower Ragsdale Drive, Suite 100, Monterey, CA 93940, (831) 649-2870

NAPA — 7329 Silverado Trail, Napa, CA, 94558 (707) 944-5500

RANCHO CORDOVA — 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670, (916) 358-2900

REDDING — 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001, (530) 225-2300

SAN DIEGO — 3883 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123, (858) 467-4201